

## 49th General Service Conference “Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility”

At the first General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, in 1951, said MaryJane R. in the Keynote Address to the 49th Conference “...our co-founders essentially cut themselves out of the picture. For the good of A.A. they replaced themselves as the link between the groups and the board. I see this as a real demonstration of Unity through Humility.”

Under the theme of “Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility,” A.A.’s 49th Conference met, April 18-24, at New York City’s Crowne Plaza hotel. Chairing this year’s Conference were Gary Glynn (nonalcoholic), chairman of the board; Greg M., G.S.O.’s general manager; Elaine Johnson, PhD., Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee; and Vic. B., delegate chairperson. Conference secretary was Joanie M., G.S.O. staff member.

By the time roll was called on Monday morning, officially opening the Conference, many hours, weeks and months had been spent in preparation. Beside the work of staff members, many G.S.O. employees (some alcoholics and some nonalcoholics) had been putting together the many pieces that make Conference week run like a clock. John Kirwin, G.S.O.’s nonalcoholic assistant controller, has worked with the hotel for months—arranging meals, booking meeting rooms and attending to the myriad details. Frank Segui, staff assistant on the Conference assignment, has typed miles and miles of trustee and staff reports, presentations and all the other material that goes into the Conference Manual. Right behind Frank, Miguel Rodriguez, assisted by Shawn Bunkley, Carolyn Crawford and Carlos Bauza, copied the material for the Manual and spent many Saturdays assembling the books. Daniel Brown, typesetter and designer, formatted the Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9* in English, Spanish and French.



From “The Twelve Steps Illustrated,”  
Eleventh Step.

Sunday evening the 132 members of the 49th Conference (delegates from the 92 areas of the United States and Canada, trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members) were joined for the opening dinner by past trustees, former staff members, and other friends of A.A. and their guests. An open A.A. meeting, chaired by Dave M. (Delaware), followed dinner. The meeting was led by Linda R. (Northwest Texas); speakers were: Darla B. (Mississippi), Jim T. (Alberta/NWT), Warren S. (G.S.O. staff), Jan P. (A.A.W.S. director), and Marne H. (Eastern Canada trustee).

Beside the standard agenda of Conference week (presentations, reports, sharing sessions etc.), which often runs from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., there were many other activities throughout the week. Saturday, from noon to 5:00 p.m., New York Intergroup Assn. hosted a Hospitality Suite where early-arriving Conference members could get together for fellowship and coffee, greeting old friends and welcoming new friends. Sunday afternoon friends and family members were hosted by A.A.s from Southeast New York. Throughout the week volunteer A.A. members toured the city with the approximately 54 accompanying guests (many were A.A.s or Al-Anons). Their schedule included visits to Ellis Island, the Cloisters, Museum of Natural History, Chinatown and much more. Tuesday afternoon, Conference members visited the G.S.O. and Grapevine offices, where they could ask questions of employees, see how group contributions are processed; learn what is involved with receiving data, via diskette, regarding their area; view A.A.’s history in the archives; and see our desktop publishing operation and constantly evolving Web site.

Since we are only one year away from the celebration of A.A.’s 65th Birthday, Valerie O’N., G.S.O.’s International

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Convention coordinator, on Wednesday gave a presentation followed by several G.S.O. staff members at mikes asking Valerie questions drawn from actual situations encountered at past Conventions. Conference members also saw a 5-minute video on Minneapolis, the host city.

The main focus of the Conference though, is on the deliberations of each of the 13 Conference committees, and it is during the committee meetings that the major work of the Conference is done. After a joint meeting with corresponding trustees' committees, the Conference committees review material and recommendations, weigh and discuss various issues and come up with recommendations which may result in Conference Advisory Actions (Highlights of Advisory Actions, p. 3).

This year, among many agenda items, the Conference Finance Committee discussed self-support; Report and Charter considered a draft for a new *A.A. Service Manual*; P.I. reviewed a final draft of the 1998 A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet; the Conference Literature Committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee's progress report on the development of a draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book; and much more.

Wednesday afternoon the Conference elected three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees. Tony T. of Berlin, Connecticut, will succeed MaryJane R. as Northeast regional trustee and Beth R. of Brazoria, Texas, will be the new Southwest regional trustee, filling the vacancy left by the death of Raul M. in 1998. The new trustee-at-large/Canada will be Alex P., of Abbotsford, B.C., following rotating Michel G. A new general service trustee will be Greg T. of New Jersey.

Rick B., Central SE Ohio, will be the delegate chairperson for the 2000 General Service Conference; Clayton V., E. Missouri, will be the alternate chair.

"At the end of the week I will let go with both hands and experience Unity through Humility by rotation; we each have our gifts to bring and then move on," MaryJane R. said in the Keynote Monday morning.

Thus, at the Saturday morning Closing Brunch, the theme was expressed for the final time in talks by the two rotating trustees—Michel G. and MaryJane.

Then the delegates started home—to their regions, areas, districts and groups. In a presentation Monday evening on "Our Responsibility to A.A. Unity: The Home Group," Tom K., delegate from Saskatchewan, said: "As we consider 'Our Responsibility to A.A. Unity' let us remember that it all begins, just as my recovery began, in that basic unit of A.A.—the Home Group. As the Fellowship of A.A. continues to 'move forward,' it is only our precious unity that allows us to continue to provide a safe harbor for those hopelessly adrift on a sea of alcoholism, as well as providing refuge and recovery for those who have already found rescue. And it will be the development of a genuine humility, through the practice of the Twelve Steps in our lives, and of the Twelve Traditions in our group affairs, that will ensure our priceless unity and effectiveness, for as long as He may need us."

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## Resumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 2000

Two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees—from the West Central (U.S.) and Western Canada Regions—will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 2000. Resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2000, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new West Central regional trustee will succeed Carl B. of Wyoming; the new regional from Western Canada will replace rotating Garry McA. of Alberta.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Please submit your candidate's resumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

# 1999 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some significant Advisory Actions appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

**Floor Action**—that the following statement be added to the vacancy announcement letters for appointed committee member, nontrustee director, Class A trustee, regional trustee and trustee at-large/U.S. or Canada: "In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself."

**Agenda**—that the theme for the 2000 General Service Conference be: "Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles."

**Archives**—that the trustees' Archives Committee review the Archives Handbook and consider the need for any changes and/or an Archives Kit.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**—no recommendations.

**Correctional Facilities**—that the first six paragraphs on pages 18 & 19 of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting In a Cell," under the heading "We Set Up A.A. Contacts," be replaced with the changes selected by the Committee; that the 1983 Conference Advisory Action that, "A letter explaining the Institution Correspondence Service be sent twice a year to delegates and correctional facilities [committee] chairpersons asking for A.A. volunteers to write inmates on an individual basis" be reaffirmed.

**Finance**—that the annual limit contributed to the General Service Office from individual A.A. members be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and be on a one-time only basis and not in perpetuity; that the Conference support the General Service Board policy which states: "Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, i.e., convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined."

**Grapevine**—no recommendations.

**International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums**—that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2000 International Convention.

**Literature**—that a progress report and/or a draft of the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be brought to

the 2000 Conference Literature Committee; that a draft copy of a pamphlet directed to the Black/African American alcoholic be developed and brought back to the Conference Literature Committee for review; that the pamphlet "Time to Start Living" be replaced with a new pamphlet, published in large print only.

**Policy/Admissions**—that the 52nd General Service Conference be held April 21-27, 2002.

**Public Information**—that a subsection, "A.A. Literature for Special Needs" be added to the A.A. Fact File; that the A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 1998 Membership Survey.

**Report and Charter**—that the review of *The A.A. Service Manual*, undertaken by G.S.O.'s publication department as the result of a 1997 Advisory Action, be accepted, and that the revised manuscript be approved as the 1999-2000 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**Treatment Facilities**—that a soft-cover Treatment Facilities Kit, designated as service material, replace the current Workbook [3-ring binder] to be consistent with other service committee kits.

**Trustees**—that the slate of trustees, officers and directors of the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Board and Grapevine Corporate Board be elected.

## Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 1999<sup>1</sup>

	Groups	Members
United States	51,183	1,166,927
Canada	5,257	101,786
Correctional facilities <sup>2</sup>	2,466	63,002
Internationalists		124
Lone members		347
Total	58,906	1,332,186
Outside U.S. & Canada <sup>3</sup>	39,804	656,938
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>98,710</b>	<b>1,989,124</b>

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. U.S. and Canada only.

3. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 150 countries, including 44 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use the previous year's figures.

# Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

## General Service Board

**Trustees' report:** Greg M. became general manager of the General Service Office on January 1, 1999, following George D.'s retirement. Greg served as a Panel 37 delegate from Hawaii and as Pacific Regional trustee, 1990-1994.

As I reported to you at last year's Conference, I appointed a committee to try to make our board meetings shorter and more productive. Chuck C., chairman, Michel G., Richard R., and MaryJane R. served on this committee. As a result of their recommendations, the board voted to shorten some committee meetings, have each trustee serve on one less committee, combine the trustees' Treatment and C.P.C. Committees, and ask A.A.W.S. to meet on Friday instead of Thursday.

Since the last Conference, the board has hosted four Regional Forums and a Special Forum in Montana that took place at two sites: Helena and Miles City. The Montana Forum was a great success, in part because Carl B., current and past delegates, and local A.A.s helped to get the word out about the Forum. The success of recent Special Forums has led the board to reexamine the way we structure all Regional Forums. The proposed Fourth Edition of the Big Book continues to be a topic of interest at these events.

Last year I reported on a situation in Europe with regard to protecting A.A.'s copyrights and shared that the trustees of the General Service Board had voted unanimously to endorse the resolution of the A.A.W.S. Board to preserve and protect the copyrights held in trust for all of A.A. around the world, including taking legal action if necessary. Proceedings continue in the German copyright matter. The German G.S.O. is acting to protect German language books which are being published by an individual in violation of copyright. The same individual is publishing infringing literature in English, Finnish, Russian, Swedish, and other languages, and our action concerns these publications.

At the request of the Publications Francaises Board, A.A.W.S. terminated the license it previously granted to Publications Francaises. To ensure that the literature and services would continue without interruption to French-speaking A.A.s in Quebec, the publishing license was extended to February 1. The end of January marked the formation of an affiliate corporation in Canada to be known as *Services Mondiaux des Alcooliques Anonymes Inc.* (S.M.A.A.), which is controlled entirely by A.A.W.S.

There are now 16 A.A. groups with about 600 members in Cameroon. The Paris (France) G.S.O. has received requests for assistance from eight other African nations, including Congo,

Togo, Gabon, Senegal and the Central African Republic, and has asked for assistance in carrying the message to French-speaking Africa. We have agreed to help in any way we can, including sending literature or French-speaking trustees or staff. Africa has historically been a challenging place for A.A. to gain a foothold. In view of this joint effort at international Twelfth Step work, we were especially happy to welcome Dr. Isabelle Sokolov, Class A trustee and chairman of the G.S.B. of France, and Kathalina A., general manager of the G.S.O. of France, to our January board weekend.

G.S.O. continues to be in good financial condition. The only worrisome trend is the long-term, steady decline in sales of A.A. literature. While we have the capability of raising literature prices, the decline in sales reminds us that we must always be careful with the Fellowship's money, paying close attention to costs and making sure that those projects we undertake truly help the still-suffering alcoholic. With this in mind, I am particularly grateful for the 4.7% increase in contributions last year.

Gary Glynn  
(nonalcoholic) chairman

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## A.A. World Services, Inc.

**Directors' report:** A.A.W.S., Inc. is a New York not-for-profit corporation. The trustees of the General Service Board are the members of A.A.W.S. and elect the A.A.W.S. directors. A.A.W.S. has the delegated responsibility to maintain oversight of the General Service Office, which provides group services, including printing and distribution of Conference-approved and other service literature. The board met eight times since the last Conference to hear G.S.O. management and staff reports; review group services activity and progress on compliance with Conference and board recommendations; review budgets, expenditures, and salary policy; establish prices for literature and other materials; discuss publishing operations and administration; consider requests from A.A.s and non-A.A.s for permission to reprint A.A.-copyrighted literature; and address other matters as they arose.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Services, which addresses the needs of all service assignments; Finance, which concerns salary and budget, audit review, and retirement; Publishing, which addresses reprints, foreign literature and publications concerns; and Nominating. Long-range planning is done within each committee and by the board as a whole. The following significant items are noted:

**Services:** During 1998, 2,184 new groups were registered, compared to 2,452 in 1997. The 1998 Membership Survey is progressing well. Through October, 378 active groups had reported back to G.S.O., with a total of 6,827 surveys received by that time. Archivist Judit Santon (nonalcoholic) reported on the Third Archives Workshop, held in Akron, in September, with 150 participants; a presentation was made by G.S.O. Information Service manager Lillian Murphy (nonalcoholic) regarding the current status of "Year 2000" project; it has been kept "in house" and implementation is on schedule. G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site was accessed 401,573 times, compared to 214,603 visits in 1997. These represented "hits" in English, French and Spanish. We discussed the issue of anonymity on the Internet and suggested that the trustees' P.I. Committee raise this for discussion.

**Regional Forums:** A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. staff participated in four Regional Forums and one Special Forum since the last Conference.

**AI-Anon International Convention:** Five trustees and G.S.O.'s International Convention coordinator Valerie O'N. attended AI-Anon's Third International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 2-5. There were 4,555 registrants, including 825 A.A. members.

**Intergroup Seminar:** The 13th Annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar was held in San Mateo, California, October 9-11, with 138 participants.

**International:** Jean G., vice-chairperson of the South African General Service Board, visited G.S.O. in May; Dr. Isabelle Sokolov, Class A trustee and chairperson of the French Board of Trustees, and Kathalina A., G.S.O. general manager in France, visited the office and were guests at the January 1999 A.A.W.S. Board meeting. G.S.O. sent complimentary Spanish literature in response to the request for assistance from the Honduras General Service Office in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Staff and trustees participated in the following events: Staff member Joanie M. attended the 50th Anniversary of A.A. in the Netherlands, September 25-27; Richard B. attended Sweden's General Service Conference in Stockholm, March 19-21, 1999; George D. attended the First General Service Conference in Timisoara, Romania and joined Richard B. at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of A.A. in Jurmala, Latvia, November 4-6; Richard also visited the Polish G.S.O. in Warsaw, on his way to join George D. at the Tenth Anniversary Congress of A.A. in Vilnius, Lithuania, June 26-28; Richard and Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee George E. Vaillant, M.D., traveled to Ukraine February 26-28, 1999, for a meeting with professionals and

attended their 10th A.A. Anniversary celebration. The 15th World Service Meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand, October 4-8. Twenty-two countries were represented by 39 delegates. Dean R. and Michel G., trustees-at-large, represented our General Service Board. The board authorized G.S.O. to post an announcement of the 2000 International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

**Finance:** The board received, approved and forwarded to the General Service Board, a mid-year budget adjustment of \$47,400 to cover French and Spanish soundtracks for the following items: \$12,400—Public Service Announcements; \$17,500—Corrections Video, \$17,500—G.S.O. Video. Through its Finance Committee, the board prepared, reviewed and recommended G.S.O.'s 1999 budget to the trustees' Finance Committee, projecting net sales of \$8,553,900, contributions of \$4,100,000, operating expenses of \$8,680,450, and a net income of \$174,100 for 1999.

**Publishing:** We published the following items in English, Spanish and French: "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" video; "Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" video and accompanying service brochure; and new Public Service Announcements. We also produced *Living Sober* and *The Pioneers' Stories* on audio cassette. Eight foreign literature items were completed: Marshallese A.A. *at a Glance* and *How It Works*; Greek Big Book, "Is A.A. for You?" and "A Newcomer Asks"; Turkish *As Bill Sees It*; Croatian Big Book; and Romanian *Living Sober*. Great Britain's board contributed \$10,000 toward completing the Greek Big Book; we granted permission/did not object to 117 requests to reprint from A.A. literature, 28 requests were denied.

Other board actions: In May 1998 we welcomed newly-elected nontrustee directors, Ronald G. and Jan P. Jacqueline J. was also welcomed as a newly-elected general service trustee. Jack O. replaced rotating regional trustee director MaryJane R. In addition, the board elected a slate of officers to terms expiring at the end of the April 1999 Conference; we requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee approve Jim C. to replace Garry McA. as a regional trustee director, following the 1999 Conference.

New G.S.O. general manager Greg M. was elected a director and A.A.W.S. president, effective January 1, 1999, replacing George D. who retired.

**G.S.O./Staff Operations:** At year-end 1998, G.S.O. had 82 full-time positions, compared with 83 employees in 1997; we welcomed new G.S.O. staff member Bill A., of Montreal, on October 1, 1998. We approved a budget of \$475,000 to cover the cost of the construction project to consolidate G.S.O.'s operations on the 11th floor. The project was completed on time and on budget. By year end G.S.O. had welcomed 1,330 visitors.

*Richard R., chairperson*

## Archives

**Trustees' committee:** The committee initiated a project to explore the audio preservation needs of G.S.O.'s archival material. Considering the size of the collection, this would be an ongoing project for years to come. Three proposals were discussed regarding the revision of the video "Markings On the Journey"; the completed project is being reviewed by the committee. The value of the clipping service was discussed and it was agreed that it would be helpful if Archives receives the clippings after they had been circulated and then selects and preserves only those with permanent value. The committee approved plans to create a designated area for the G.S.O. Archives at the International Convention.

*Tom M., chairperson*

**Archivist's report:** In 1998 we received many requests for local group histories, while many areas and groups were providing updates of their histories for our permanent files. Original group records, 120 boxes, were forwarded from the files department and these have been scanned. We assisted a growing number of researchers in 1998, both from within and outside the Fellowship. To maintain a safe and secure environment for our primary documentation, a small remodeling was done in the Archives as part of the G.S.O. reconstruction.

*Judit Santon  
(nonalcoholic) archivist*

## Conference

**Trustees' committee:** We reviewed the 1998 Advisory Actions, including the theme chosen for the 49th General Service Conference, "Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility." We also reviewed the summary of Evaluation Questionnaires and agreed to encourage first-year delegates to include personal experience and concerns in their Area Service Highlights. The committee also agreed that the descriptions in their Composition, Scope and Procedure were no longer accurate, and a subcommittee was appointed to draft a revision for review. We reviewed and approved the 1999 Conference Agenda, including workshop questions and presentation topics, and also considered Conference Agenda topics and forwarded subjects to the appropriate trustees or Conference Committee.

*MaryJane R., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Conference secretary is the G.S.O. contact for Conference members and area and district committee members of the 92 areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Conference secretary is responsible for: Serving as secretary to the Conference Agenda

Committee and the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference; assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; working with the G.S.O. staff and general manager on planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and other information for the Conference Manual, the Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Final Report*.

*Joanie M.*

## Cooperation With the Professional Community/ Treatment Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** In 1998 trustees' C.P.C. and trustees' Treatment Committees were combined; this combined committee is served by two secretaries.

**C.P.C.**—During the past year the committee reviewed drafts for a new exhibit panel and forwarded to the Conference C.P.C. committee a request to revise the "Singleness of Purpose..." text in six C.P.C. pamphlets. In 1998 the A.A. Web site was accessed over 35,000 times by professionals.

**Treatment Facilities**—The committee reviewed the summary of a questionnaire regarding carrying the message into noncorrectional youth facilities. Local T.F. committees are now carrying meetings into noncorrectional institutional environments, e.g., shelters, nursing homes, hospices, half-way houses and not just limiting their scope to "treatment facilities." The trustees' committee continues to provide support for this special Twelfth Step service.

*Dean R., chairperson*

### Staff reports:

**C.P.C.**—The purpose of C.P.C. is to provide information about A.A. and establish good communication with those outside A.A. who may have direct contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. In the past year the C.P.C. desk has responded to nearly 2,000 inquiries, 1,076 requests for information following a visit to our Web site. The staff member maintains communication with C.P.C. committee chairs throughout the U.S. and Canada. Currently there are over 400 area, district and central office/intergroup C.P.C. committees. The publication *About A.A.* is also the responsibility of this assignment.

*Adriene B.*

**Treatment**—The purpose of the Treatment Facilities assignment is to provide service material to assist local A.A. members who wish to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics in treatment. We now have about 92 area T.F. chairper-

sons, 245 district T.F. chairs, and 116 "other" T.F. chairpersons. We try to keep an up-to-date list of the chairs of these committees and to provide them with information and literature. Inquiries come to the T.F. desk via letter, telephone, fax and e-mail, from: newly sober alcoholics in treatment; local A.A.s who have become or are interested in becoming active on treatment facilities committees; treatment administrators or personnel requesting information about A.A. and assistance in setting up meetings; and area T.F. committees' meeting minutes and reports.

Bill A.

## Correctional Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** The committee developed, and forwarded to the Conference C.F. Committee, a one-page informational letter to wardens and correctional professionals. We also forwarded to the 1999 Conference Committee recommendations for additions and revisions to the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell."

Linda Chezem, J.D.,

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

**Staff report:** This assignment is responsible for carrying the message to alcoholics confined in correctional institutions. Over 600 letters a month arrive from inmates, most asking for free literature, many for names of outside members with whom to correspond, or for help in making contact with A.A. upon release. We try to facilitate these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local C.F. committees. The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), coordinated by this desk, continues as one of our most valuable efforts, as well as continuing efforts to capture the interest of A.A.s to increase their participation in CCS. During the first nine months in which the new video, "Carry the Message Behind These Walls" has been available, the assignment has received many positive responses to it.

Warren S.

## Finance

**Trustees' committee:** G.S.O.'s actual results for 1998 were very close to budget and we have accomplished the objective of lowering the Reserve Fund balance, which now stands at just nine months.

Contributions were \$184,000, or 4.8%, higher than 1997 and \$107,000 (2.7) higher than budget. During 1998, \$4,039,000 in contributions were received from 25,175 groups. That, for comparison, represents 44.6% of the 56,440 groups registered with G.S.O. Net sales of literature were \$8,912,200. The number of actual books and booklets sold declined about 9% below the 1997 level. Gross profit of \$4,520,000

was \$260,000 less than budgeted but \$276,000 more than 1997. Total G.S.O. revenue was \$8,562,400. This was \$153,000, or 1.75%, less than originally budgeted, but \$459,400, or 5.7%, greater than 1997. Total operating expenses for G.S.O. during 1998 were \$8,422,800. This is \$102,000 less than budget, and essentially "flat" to the previous year. Therefore, compared to the budget, the modest reduction in revenues was significantly offset by the reduced expenses, resulting in an operating profit of \$140,000 for the year, compared to a (adjusted) budgeted loss of \$190,500.

The 1999 G.S.O. budget assumes a 6% decline of books and booklets, 1.5% increase in contributions, and a minimal, \$258,000 (3%), increase in operating expenses. The projection for 1999 is for a modest excess of revenue over expense of \$174,000.

Services spending amounted to \$104 per listed A.A. group, while contributions were \$72 per group.

At the Grapevine, magazine income rose \$40,000 over last year because of the price increase that took effect on new subscriptions beginning April 1, 1996. Average circulation during 1998 was 117,300 compared with 120,679 for 1997. Gross profit on the magazine was \$1,050,000 which was \$70,000 higher than last year but \$28,000 less than budget. This \$70,000 was a result of direct production costs being approximately even with budget, and approximately \$30,000 less than the prior year. Gross profit on other items was approximately even with 1997. Total income, including interest income, was \$1,409,500, \$75,000 greater than last year but \$64,000 less than budgeted. Costs and expenses for editorial, circulation and business, and administration were \$1,454,700. This was \$38,000 higher than last year and \$29,000 less than budget. The Grapevine (excluding La Viña) reported a loss of \$145,200, \$35,000 greater than budgeted. The Grapevine's 1999 budget, excluding La Viña, calls for an \$18,000 increase in magazine subscription income to \$1,721,400, compared with 1998, and a decrease of \$27,000 in magazine gross profit. Gross profit on Other Publishing Income is anticipated to increase \$92,000, interest income should remain approximately the same and costs and expenses are projected to increase by \$49,000. The net effect is a budgeted decline in net loss, from \$45,200 in 1998 to \$29,700 in 1999. In 1998, La Viña had an average circulation close to 7,700. During 1998, subscription income was \$57,600 and direct costs of publishing were \$50,700, resulting in a \$6,900 gross profit. Operating expenses were \$73,000, including the editorial, circulation and administrative costs. The overall loss on the project was \$66,200 for the year. For 1999, the loss on the La Viña project is budgeted to decline to \$69,600 and circulation is projected essentially the same 7,500 copies.

Arthur L. Knight, Jr.

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

## General Sharing Session

**Trustees' report:** In August the sharing session was unstructured and concerns covered a variety of topics, including remote communities, the role of International Conventions and carrying the message to African American communities. The October session addressed "General Service and the Ninth Tradition," emphasizing that A.A. as such ought never be organized. This past January the topic was "How We Work With Each Other From Within."

Linda Chezem, J.D.,

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

## International Conventions/ A.A. Regional Forums

**Trustees' committee:**

**International Conventions**—The committee reviewed and approved program titles for the 2000 International Convention, with the understanding that some titles may be added or deleted, depending on final needs. We also reviewed a summary of 2000 Host Committee responsibility based on 15 proposed subcommittees. The preliminary budget for the Convention was reviewed, and the final budget and registration fee will be determined by this committee at their July 1999 meeting. The General Service Board approved the committee's recommendation that a desk-top format of *Daily Reflections* be produced as the 2000 International Convention souvenir item.

**Regional Forums**—Four regions have held Forums since the last Conference: Western Canada, Pacific, Eastern Canada and Southeast. All were lively and well-attended with substantive sharing on important A.A. topics. A Special Forum was held in Montana at two sites: Helena and Miles City. At the January board weekend this committee took an inventory on Regional and Special Forums, where we are and where do we go from here.

Peter Roach

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

**Staff reports:**

**International Conventions**—This assignment involves coordinating every aspect of the many processes and plans that go to make up A.A. International Conventions, held every five years. Preliminary plans are well underway for the Convention in 2000 to be held June 29-July 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Valerie O'N.

**Regional Forums**—The staff member handling Regional Forums is responsible for coordinating and following through on all arrangements necessary for holding Regional Forums in the U.S. and Canada. These sharing weekends

help foster wider communication and understanding among A.A. service workers, the General Service Board, A.A.W.S., Inc., the Grapevine Board and staff and the G.S.O. staff. Regional Forums are held at the invitation of a particular region every two years; there are four annually. The staff member also serves as secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees and is co-secretary of the trustees' and Conference International Conventions/Regional Forums Committees. Following Forums, a report is sent to all who attended.

Susan U.

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## International/ World Service Meeting

**Trustees' committee:** This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to assure that the A.A. message is available around the world, especially in areas where there is no established service structure. We provide shared experience, support translations of A.A. literature in other languages, and encourage the expansion of regional or zonal service meetings. The committee is a primary link between the international A.A. community and the General Service Board. The 15th World Service Meeting was held October 4-8, 1998, in Auckland, New Zealand, with 39 delegates from 22 countries. The theme was "Service - Basic to Personal Recovery and A.A. Unity." In 1999 A.A.W.S. will translate and publish a variety of foreign language books and pamphlets. This service is partially underwritten by contributions of U.S./Canada groups, as well as support from the International Literature Fund of contributions from A.A. groups around the world. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by the international A.A. community and General Service Boards in other countries, who carry our message to countless thousands in new regions and across difficult linguistic, cultural and economic barriers.

Michel G., chairperson

**Staff report:** The International desk receives letters and requests from around the world. Each request is answered with a letter, often accompanied by A.A. literature. Other responsibilities on the assignment are: Serving as coordinator for the biennial World Service Meeting (WSM) and maintaining contact with delegates and their offices throughout the year; maintaining close communications with our Publications Department on requests for new translations of literature and the beginnings of new central offices that may be able to distribute literature to local members and groups.

Richard B.

## Literature

**Trustees' committee:** A summary of literature projects since the 1998 Conference.

**Project Completed:** An appendix added to Living Sober; the video "Your A.A. General Service Office, The Grapevine, and The General Service Structure" produced and distributed.

**Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee:** Recommendations and suggestions regarding the Fourth Edition Big Book Project; a request for an A.A. history book; recommendation for development of a pamphlet directed to the Black/African American alcoholic; proposal to replace or update the pamphlet *Time to Start Living*.

**Ongoing Projects:** A progress report on a possible Fourth Edition of the Big Book was forwarded to the Conference committee.

Garry McA., chairperson

**Staff report:** The Literature coordinator serves as secretary to the trustees' and Conference Literature Committees and works closely with the editor, writers and illustrators on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books, displays and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the General Service Conference. The Literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature and maintains contact with area, district, intergroup and A.A. group literature chairpersons. Each newly elected literature chair receives a welcoming letter and guidelines to assist in this vital responsibility. The staff member on the Literature desk serves as editor of *Box 4-5-9*.

Doug R.

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## Loners, Internationalists, Homers

**Staff report:** Loners are A.A.s who are unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. There are about 350 Loners in 80 countries. Seagoing A.A.s, known as Internationalists, number about 125 with an additional 46 Port Contacts; eight Internationalist Groups meet aboard ships. We now have 210 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to illness or physical disability. Loners, Homers, and Internationalists stay sober by sharing experience, strength and hope with other A.A.s around the world through letters and tapes. Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a directory of members, a subscription to *Box 4-5-9* and the *Loners/Internationalists Meeting-By-Mail*, (LIM) a bimonthly bulletin which shares excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. There are also over 680 Loners Sponsors, sharing group activities and personal experience.

Bill A.

## Nominating

**Trustees' committee:** We discussed the role of appointed committee members on trustees' committees and recommended that the role of appointed committee members be a topic of discussion by the General Service Board. The proposed slates of General Service Board members, officers of the board, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine directors were forwarded to the 1999 Conference Committee on Trustees for disapproval, if any.

Elaine M. Johnson, Ph.D.,  
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

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## Public Information

**Trustees' committee:** Since the last Conference the four new T.V. public service announcements were made available as three separate inventory items; the committee reviewed the data resulting from the 1998 Membership Survey; reviewed and approved the annual media Anonymity Letter to be mailed to media professionals (English, Spanish and French media outlets).

The following items have been referred to the Conference P.I. Committee: Review of report on the A.A. Fact File; draft of the 1998 A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet; discussion of anonymity at the public level of the Internet; request from a producer for permission to use footage from the film "Bill's Own Story" in a television biography program about Bill W. which would include Dr. Bob S.

Jack O., chairperson

**Staff report:** The goal of the P.I. assignment is to help carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic, potential alcoholic and general public through the media, health fairs, schools and G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. Part of P.I. work at G.S.O. is to be a resource for the "collected experience and sharing" of P.I. committees throughout the U.S. and Canada. The staff person sends information three or four times a year to approximately 500 P.I. committee chairs at the area, district, intergroup/central office and group level, and is responsible for handling interviews with the media. The staff member responds to hundreds of written and telephone inquiries and provides accurate information to the media, researchers, students and the general public about A.A. The 1998 Membership Survey is coordinated by the P.I. desk.

Eva S.

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## Service Material

**Staff report:** To assist groups, the General Service Office provides service material to the Fellowship, based on an indicated need, to provide information and share experience not

found in Conference-approved literature. Examples of service material include: Regional Forum Reports; A.A. Guidelines; referral list of Fellowships Similar to A.A.; and Special Needs items. Ongoing projects: Coordination of three A.A. Directories; supervision of service files; supervision/production of A.A. Guidelines, Group Handbooks, and G.S.R. Kits. The staff member also serves as liaison with intergroup/central offices and as the liaison with special needs committees.

Susan U.

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## Spanish Services

**Staff report:** There are more than 40,000 Spanish-speaking A.A. members, meeting in 1,500 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. The Spanish Services staff person, who does not rotate, coordinates Spanish translations of material from the other staff assignments and assists other staff members in providing services to the Spanish-speaking community. All Spanish-speaking groups receive *Box 4-5-9* in Spanish. The General Service Board's *Quarterly Report* is also distributed in Spanish, and a list of preliminary and final Conference Agenda items is distributed in Spanish to all delegates and alternate delegates. The staff member helps answer the correspondence received in Spanish by other assignments, and attends conventions, Hispanic intergroup meetings, Regional Forums, World Service Meetings and the International Convention, as well as greeting Spanish-speaking visitors to G.S.O.

Danny M.

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## Staff Coordinator

**Staff report:** Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through 11 staff assignments; in addition staff members correspond with groups and members in a specific region. Staff members rotate assignments every two years; assignments are monitored by the staff coordinator. In 1998 staff received a total of 20,529 pieces of mail. The staff coordinator coordinates staff activities and chairs the weekly staff meetings. As assistant secretary of the General Service Board, the staff coordinator is responsible for scheduling committee meetings, distributing advance materials, preparing the minutes of the board meetings and also serves as editor of the *Quarterly Report*. In the past year approximately 1,330 visitors from around the world visited G.S.O.

Lois F.

## Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

**Directors' report:** Since the 48th Conference, the Grapevine Board has met nine times. In July, the board had the pleasure of hosting the editor of *Plenitud*, our Mexican magazine counterpart. The board also met in a special session with the chairperson of the General Service Board to discuss the relationship between the Grapevine, A.A.W.S. and the General Service Board.

**Finance: 1998 Results**—We ended 1998 with a loss of \$45,207, greater than the budgeted loss of \$10,170, but less than the actual loss in 1997 of \$79,749. Some of the reasons for the greater-than-budgeted loss were lower than budgeted circulation income and sales of the two new tapes and the annual wall calendar and pocket planner; \$10,000 of unanticipated costs related to the office reconfiguration; higher than budgeted expenses for meetings and conferences; and higher than budgeted direct costs for related items. Circulation for 1998 was budgeted at 122,000 copies per month; however, the actual circulation for the year was 117,292 copies per month. While we budgeted for a loss of \$78,352 for *La Viña*, the actual loss for the year was only \$66,182, which has allowed the magazine to maintain a positive gross profit even with less than budgeted circulation income.

**1999 Budget:** The board approved a 1999 budget that projects a loss of \$29,698 for the year. One of the principal elements of this budget is a 16% increase in postal charges based on new postal rates. The budget also includes new shipping and handling charges for related-item orders, and a price increase of \$1.00 on all Grapevine audiocassette tapes. For *La Viña*, the budgeted loss for 1999 is projected at \$69,602.

**Editorial Features:** Over the last year, the Grapevine has published a broad range of material, including articles on the Traditions, the Steps, A.A. Around the World, and a number of special features. Plans are currently underway for the Grapevine's special Millennium Issue, scheduled for January 2000. In *La Viña*, while many of the special features were translated from the Grapevine, there were a number of original Spanish features. In July, an Editorial Advisory Board was formed for *La Viña*.

**Canadian Circulation and Pricing:** In 1998, the board reduced the discount level for Canadian related-item orders; and in 1999 set a new consolidated price in U.S. funds for Canadian subscribers: \$19 for one year; \$36 for two; and \$52 for three. We will also accept payment in Canadian funds (at the U.S. equivalent).

**French Publications:** In February 1999, the Grapevine's license with the French Publications Service expired to publish the French editions of *The Language of the Heart*, *The Best of Bill*, and *The Home Group*. All rights reverted to the Grapevine. We will now work with A.A.W.S. and the newly-formed S.M.A.A. Corporation regarding the sale and distribution of these items.

**Grapevine Web site:** Between August and January there were 103,471 hits on the Web site—an average of 559 hits per day. Visitors to the Web site came from over 71 different countries. The Web site address is: <[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)>

**Grapevine Office:** In June Bob Slotterback was promoted to the position of controller, responsible for financial planning, budgeting, accounting and financial reporting. Bob has been at the Grapevine since 1991 and was serving as the assistant controller. Also in June, the final conversion to a new circulation program on the AS-400 computer for both the Grapevine and *La Viña* took place. Grapevine management is in the process of reorganizing the circulation and bookkeeping departments. The goal is to create one unified order department which will be responsible for the processing of all orders, both subscriptions and related items, and an accounting/audit department which will be responsible for all accounting and fiscal reporting.

**Service Activity:** The Grapevine has participated in five Regional Forums in the last year, and the Intergroup/Central Office Seminar. Carl B., chairperson

**Staff Report:** In June 1999, the A.A. Grapevine will celebrate 55 years of continuous publication. There are four major areas of operations: editorial, circulation, accounting/bookkeeping, and shipping.

The editorial department, managed by the executive editor, consists of a senior editor, Spanish resources editor, executive secretary, editorial assistant, and part-time art director. All materials are designed in-house. The department answers all editorial queries and processes several hundred manuscript submissions every month.

A nonalcoholic controller manages accounting, bookkeeping, and financial functions, and prepares statements of financial operations and annual budgets. Bookkeeping distributes incoming mail. The administrative unit of bookkeeping maintains employee payroll and administers employee benefit programs.

The circulation department processes new and renewal orders for both the Grapevine and *La Viña* and provides customer service. It keeps subscription information up to date and produces the mailing labels and renewal reminders. The circulation director maintains and develops programs to increase readership and interest in our publications.

The shipping department arranges for inventory transfers to and from warehouse distribution centers and ships and packs smaller orders.

**La Viña:** *La Viña*'s circulation is approximately 7,500 copies, with 10% coming from outside the U.S. and Canada. Another 10% comes from a single large order placed by a H&I Committee in Southern California.

Cynthia K., senior editor



# Budget Highlights

## 1999 G.S.O. Budget

This budget describes the "OPERATIONS" of the General Service Office. It includes expenses of A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation) and the General Fund (Service activities). It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund or the Capital Projects Fund. The Grapevine operations are described below in a separate report.

**Income:** The 1999 sales budget of \$8,823,800 is approximately 4% less than the 1998 actual results. The budget reflects the continuing trend of declining unit sales. Book & Booklet unit sales are estimated 6% lower than 1998. Net sales after discounts allowed are projected at \$8,553,900, approximately \$358,000 less than 1998.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted \$203,000 less than 1998's actual results, primarily a result of lower sales volume. Royalties, budgeted at \$155,100, are estimated \$434,000 less than 1998, a direct result of the ended obligation of payments to the Stepping Stones Foundation.

An increase of approximately 6% has been budgeted in the shipping and warehousing costs anticipating increase in postage and freight.

Gross profit from literature is budgeted at \$4,750,500, approximately \$230,600 greater than 1998, primarily a result of the decline in royalty payments which more than offsets the decline in sales.

**Contributions** for 1999 have been budgeted at \$4,100,000, approximately a 1.5% increase over 1998.

**Total Operating Revenue** for the period is anticipated at \$8,854,500, 3.4% higher than 1998.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 1999 have been budgeted at \$8,680,450, approximately 3% higher than 1998.

An excess of revenue over expenses of \$174,100 is budgeted. This compares with a \$139,600 net income for 1998, a \$245,000 loss for 1997, a \$1,264,000 loss for 1996, and a \$1,147,000 loss for 1995. The three years of losses, followed by moderated profits, has accomplished the goal of reducing the Reserve Fund balance to a 9-month level.

## 1999 Grapevine Budget

The 1999 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation for 1999 of 117,000 copies, even with the 1998 117,300 average.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$1,738,300 is expected, even with 1998. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$599,200, approximately \$82,000 higher than 1998 as a result of additional cassette tape, calendar and pocket planner sales.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items, the gross profit of \$1,382,263 is 61.8 % of budgeted income as compared to \$1,317,584 or 58.7% in 1998, 58.1% in 1997 and 52.3% achieved in 1996.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Total Operating Expenses for 1999 are budgeted at \$1,503,757, approximately \$50,000 more than the 1998 actuals of \$1,454,700.

**Net Income:** For 1999 net loss is budgeted at \$29,700 after interest earned as compared with a net loss of \$45,207 in 1998.

## 1999 Spanish Grapevine Budget

Following the 1995 General Service Conference Advisory Action #7, the publication of the Grapevine magazine in Spanish was approved by the Grapevine Board of Directors and the trustees' Finance Committee of the General Service Board. Recognizing this publication as a new venture, both boards will review the financial impact on the Fellowship and the progress of circulation and continue to monitor the viability of this venture.

For 1999 La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of \$5,216, compared with a \$6,864 gross profit for 1998 and a \$2,750 loss for 1997. Circulation for 1999 is estimated at 7,500 approximately equal with the 7,724 1998 average. Total costs and expenses are estimated at \$74,818 for 1999, compared with \$73,046 in 1998. The 1999 budget projects a net loss of \$69,602, compared with a \$66,182 loss in 1998.

To date the La Viña project has incurred start-up costs/operating losses of \$29,500 in 1995, \$138,290 in 1996, \$102,140 in 1997, and \$66,182 in 1998.

# 1998 Contributions From Groups — by Delegate Area

(in U.S. dollars)

GENERAL SERVICE AREA #	CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBER-SHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA	GENERAL SERVICE AREA #	CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBER-SHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA
1	Ala./N.W.Fla.	395	207	52.4%	27,814.68	8,223	\$3.38	59.	Pennsylvania						
2.	Alaska	204	90	44.1	9,275.82	3,682	2.51	60.	East	1,430	690	48.2	116,339.30	33,762	3.44
3.	Arizona	784	365	46.5	69,773.08	16,863	4.13	61.	West	768	362	47.1	39,110.66	10,974	3.56
4.	Arkansas	241	127	52.6	10,321.18	4,217	2.44	61.	Rhode Island	249	116	46.5	13,820.93	5,443	2.53
5.	California							62.	South Carolina	304	198	65.1	32,253.26	6,520	4.94
6.	Southern	1,908	730	38.2	114,899.57	59,281	1.93	63.	South Dakota	159	64	40.2	5,030.49	3,838	1.31
7.	N. Coastal	1,941	1,074	55.3	198,381.84	62,441	3.17	64.	Tennessee	489	212	43.3	34,177.19	11,168	3.06
8.	N. Interior	705	351	49.7	45,793.93	20,014	2.28		Texas						
9.	San Diego/Imp.	867	369	42.5	56,394.94	26,790	2.10	65.	Northeast	437	198	45.3	54,099.97	17,637	3.06
10.	Mid-South.	1,818	711	39.1	101,257.00	58,557	1.72	66.	Northwest	239	83	34.7	15,181.86	6,259	2.42
11.	Colorado	621	333	53.6	52,341.36	14,456	3.62	67.	Southeast	517	241	46.6	40,151.59	15,923	2.52
12.	Connecticut	1,428	540	37.8	63,682.02	34,957	1.82	68.	Southwest	485	227	46.8	35,630.33	11,848	3.00
13.	Delaware	198	122	61.6	21,750.41	3,098	7.02	69.	Utah	254	146	57.4	25,102.98	5,156	4.86
14.	D.C.	453	205	45.2	35,939.35	14,500	2.47	70.	Vermont	225	106	47.1	11,458.13	4,340	2.64
15.	Florida							71.	Virginia	1,164	640	54.9	90,543.97	22,744	3.98
16.	North	642	357	55.6	63,220.41	14,791	4.27	72.	Washington West	1,108	531	47.9	90,980.64	24,453	3.72
17.	South/Bahamas/V.I.	1,505	793	52.6	136,542.60	31,996	4.26	73.	West Virginia	292	125	42.8	9,633.58	3,340	2.88
18.	Georgia	695	441	63.4	68,317.51	16,534	4.13		Wisconsin						
19.	Hawaii	288	166	57.6	25,613.79	5,630	4.54	74.	N. Wis./Upper Pen. Mich.	603	272	45.1	24,549.99	9,901	2.47
20.	Idaho	197	90	45.6	14,656.23	3,213	4.56	75.	South	956	396	41.4	43,264.01	18,651	2.31
21.	Illinois							76.	Wyoming	108	54	50.0	5,928.57	1,909	3.10
22.	Chicago	1,175	303	25.7	52,455.71	28,023	1.87	77.	Puerto Rico	138	71	51.4	5,791.63	1,690	3.42
23.	North	1,055	408	38.6	43,353.38	21,796	1.98	78.	Alberta/N.W.T.	571	226	39.5	27,735.08	8,502	3.26
24.	South	456	182	39.9	24,413.26	7,638	3.19	79.	B.C./Yukon	752	399	53.0	47,146.98	14,115	3.34
25.	Indiana							80.	Manitoba	150	59	39.3	5,672.74	3,982	1.42
26.	North	672	265	39.4	33,387.21	9,985	3.34	81.	N.B./P.E.I.	201	83	41.2	6,299.61	3,493	1.80
27.	South	543	243	44.7	30,472.34	10,496	2.90	82.	N.S./Nfld./Lab.	269	110	40.8	7,717.26	3,644	2.11
28.	Iowa	643	299	46.5	33,631.24	12,782	2.63		Ontario						
29.	Kansas	371	157	42.3	25,641.11	9,137	2.80	83.	East	598	222	37.1	30,346.32	14,979	2.02
30.	Kentucky	628	331	52.7	56,949.17	10,286	5.53	84.	Northeast	172	64	37.2	7,990.60	2,411	3.31
31.	Louisiana	505	183	36.2	24,044.16	10,564	2.27	85.	Northwest	92	16	17.3	1,430.51	1,587	0.90
32.	Maine	468	153	32.6	13,347.22	8,007	1.66	86.	West	518	215	41.5	28,549.63	10,235	2.78
33.	Maryland	926	382	41.2	63,975.69	14,843	4.31		Quebec <sup>1</sup>						
34.	Massachusetts							87.	Southwest	593	400	67.5	15,840.58	15,447	1.03
35.	East	1,511	564	37.3	93,128.56	51,404	1.81	88.	Southeast	225	158	70.1	2,994.90	3,530	0.85
36.	West	255	126	49.4	17,736.66	5,436	3.26	89.	Northwest	366	293	80.0	6,608.00	7,312	0.91
37.	Michigan							90.	Northwest	431	366	85.0	19,108.72	8,594	2.22
38.	Central	542	214	39.4	33,151.59	12,167	2.72	91.	Saskatchewan	319	109	34.1	8,171.84	3,955	2.06
39.	Southeast	691	275	39.7	49,853.03	17,413	2.86	92.	Washington East	419	172	41.0	16,960.17	5,832	2.90
40.	West	475	213	44.8	27,937.01	9,091	3.07		Total U.S./Canada	56,440	25,175	44.6	\$3,539,847.76	1,268,713	2.79
41.	Minnesota								Individual, in-memoriam, & special meetings				192,938.97		
42.	North	543	243	44.7	19,190.87	8,231	2.33		Specials				277,924.21		
43.	South	997	394	39.5	53,283.79	21,953	2.42		Total for U.S. & Canada				4,010,710.94		
44.	Mississippi	233	117	50.2	14,988.44	4,366	3.43		<b>FOREIGN AND OTHER</b>						
45.	Missouri								A.A. On Line				825.65		
46.	East	534	265	49.6	39,611.49	9,008	4.39		Birds of a Feather				1,030.00		
47.	West	214	112	52.3	11,697.04	6,531	1.79		Correctional facility groups				460.00		
48.	Montana	285	123	43.1	18,379.12	4,400	4.17		Foreign				25,324.23		
49.	Nebraska	682	320	46.9	46,406.53	14,963	3.10		Internationalists				0.00		
50.	Nevada	439	178	40.5	21,663.72	9,438	2.29		Loners				410.00		
51.	New Hampshire	554	200	36.1	21,153.96	9,163	2.30		Internationalists Groups				100.00		
52.	New Jersey								International Dr's in A.A.				0.00		
53.	North	1,298	476	36.6	62,193.92	32,696	1.90		World Hello				60.00		
54.	South	488	234	47.9	41,511.49	9,042	4.59		Grand Total				4,038,920.82		
55.	New Mexico	322	157	48.7	19,873.70	5,834	3.40								
56.	New York														
57.	Central	713	254	35.6	36,434.92	11,650	3.12								
58.	H./M./B.	770	273	35.4	24,949.25	11,911	2.09								
59.	Southeast	1,759	794	45.1	165,268.11	57,044	2.89								
60.	West	306	105	34.3	12,253.43	5,810	2.10								
61.	N. Carolina	886	479	54.0	82,237.65	14,300	5.75								
62.	North Dakota	154	65	42.2	8,051.98	3,066	2.62								
63.	Ohio														
64.	Cent. & S.E.	638	190	29.7	22,230.93	9,257	2.40								
65.	Northeast	1,271	267	21.0	27,943.69	22,509	1.24								
66.	N.W. Ohio/S.E. Mich.	279	109	39.0	11,808.91	3,911	3.01								
67.	S.W. Ohio	523	222	42.4	31,136.85	11,145	2.79								
68.	Oklahoma	385	233	60.5	31,660.13	6,583	4.80								
69.	Oregon	760	372	48.9	50,842.76	14,417	3.52								

<sup>1</sup> Reflects not only those groups that contributed directly to G.S.O., but also those groups that contributed to G.S.O. through their Conference areas (per lists of percentages submitted by areas).

<sup>2</sup> Group contributions reported on this schedule do not include contributions received as special, individual, in-memoriam, and special meetings.

## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

### June

- 4-6—*High River, Alberta, Canada.* 23rd Roundup. Write: Ch., 214 12 Ave. SW, High River, AB T1V 1A6
- 4-6—*Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Prince Albert Gateway Roundup. Write: Ch., 44 28th St. East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 1W8
- 4-6—*Flagstaff, Arizona.* Flagstaff Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 155, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 4-6—*Oakland, California.* NCCAA 52nd Annual Summer Conf. Write: Trsr., Box 50B, Rocklin, CA 95677
- 4-6—*Mt. Vernon, Illinois.* Rend Lake Semi-Annual Campout. Write: Ch., Rt. #7, Box 406, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
- 4-6—*Leonardtown, Maryland.* Camp Maria Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
- 4-6—*Ruidoso, New Mexico.* Area 46 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 321, Cloudcroft, NM 88317
- 4-6—*Portland, Oregon.* Third Annual Day of Sobriety. Write: Ch., No. 426, NW 23rd Place, Ste. 6, Portland, OR 97210-5599
- 4-6—*Dallas, Texas.* 54th Annual State Conv. Write: Trsr., Box 595833, Dallas, TX 75359
- 4-6—*Winchester, Virginia.* 45th Four State & DC Spring Get-Together. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 164-C, Boyce, VA 22620
- 4-6—*Olympia, Washington.* Seventh Capitol Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2414, Olympia, WA 98507-2414
- 8-12—*Colorado Springs, Colorado.* BOAF Int'l. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5874, Navarre, FL 32566
- 11-13—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada.* Gratitude Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 954, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
- 11-13—*Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 34th Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., 381 Truro Rd., RR #3, Westville, NS B0K 2A0
- 11-13—*Mobile, Alabama.* 18th Annual Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36609
- 11-13—*June Lake, California.* June Lake Kampvention. Write: Ch., 23 Plaza Manzana, Alpine, CA 91901
- 11-13—*Lincolnville, Maine.* Big Book Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 891, Rockport, ME 04856
- 11-13—*Springfield, Missouri.* Heart of the Ozarks Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 11-13—*North Conway, New Hampshire.* NH Assembly Conv. Write: Ch., NH Area Service Off., 321 Lincoln St., Rm. 214, Manchester, NH 03103
- 11-13—*Medford Lakes, New Jersey.* South Jersey Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 82, Cape May, N.J. 08204

- 11-13—*Akron, Ohio.* 64th Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-0012
- 11-13—*Altoona, Pennsylvania.* Northeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 11-13—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* Renaissance City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 81961, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0961
- 11-13—*Memphis, Tennessee.* Area 64 State Conv. Write: Ch., 4024 Lehi Drive, Memphis, TN 38128
- 17-20—*Indian Wells, California.* Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255-0128
- 17-20—*Hagerstown, Maryland.* 29th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6714, Columbia, MD 21045
- 17-20—*Willow Lake, Oregon.* Women's Spiritual Short Stop Campout. Write: Ch., 1505 Addison St., Klamath Falls, Or 97601
- 18-19—*Plymouth, England.* Second Lesbian & Gay West of England Roundup. Write: Ch., 5 Anne's Place, Stoke, Plymouth, England PL3 4RJ
- 18-20—*Chatham, Ontario, Canada.* Mid-Season Campout. Write: Ch., 5513 Coronation St., Windsor, ON N8T 1B2
- 18-20—*Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.* 38th Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., 1055 St. Pauls St., Peterborough, ON K9H 6J7
- 18-20—*Monroe, Louisiana.* North East Louisiana Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 15058, Monroe, LA 71207
- 18-20—*Greenville, Mississippi.* 53rd Conf. Write: Ch., 104 Lysbeth Dr., Leland, MS 38756
- 18-20—*Akron, Ohio.* 18th L.I.M. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 112, Pitcairn, PA 15140
- 25-27—*Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada.* Cache Creek/Ashcroft 24th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0
- 25-27—*Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada.* 32nd Roundup. Write: Ch., 864 Peterbrook Rd., Quesnel, BC V2J 6H4
- 25-27—*Havana, Cuba.* Third National General Services Event. Write: Ch., edif. FOCSA 3H, Vedado, La Habana, Cuba

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

June (page 24): "Does the Tail Wag the Dog?"

July (page 57): Step Seven

- 25-27—*Moodus, Connecticut.* Soberfest 1999. Write: Ch., Box 415, Moodus, CT 06469
- 25-27—*Key West, Florida.* Sunset Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 2557, Key West, FL 33045
- 25-27—*Westfield, Massachusetts.* 15th Western Mass. Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1037, Holyoke, MA 01041-1037
- 25-27—*Exeter, Rhode Island.* 23rd Annual Ocean State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 41091, Providence, RI 02940
- 25-27—*Vancouver, Washington.* Ninth Annual Southwest Washington Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 66026, Vancouver, WA 98666

### July

- 1-5—*Torrance, California.* 15th Family South Bay Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 7786, Torrance, CA 90504
- 2-4—*Richmond, British Columbia, Canada.* Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 27150 Collingwood PO, Vancouver, BC V5R 6A8
- 2-4—*Tulsa, Oklahoma.* 19th Annual OSRY-PAA. Write: Ch., 6607 S. Zuni Ave., Unit 2505, Tulsa, OK 74146
- 2-5—*Phoenix, Arizona.* Fireworks Phenoma. Write: Ch., 2109N 90th Place, Chandler, AZ 85224-1642

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on August, September and October events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by June 10, the calendar deadline for the August/September issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (city, state or prov.): \_\_\_\_\_

For information, write: (exact mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # (for office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Flip up this end of page - for events on reverse side

3-5—*San Francisco, California*. Western Roundup Living Sober Conf. Write: Ch., Box 94142, San Francisco, CA 94142  
7-10—*Daytona Beach, Florida*. 43rd State Conv. Write: Ch., 140 Pepperwood Court, Daytona Beach, FL 32119  
9-11—*Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada*. 17th Roundup. Write: Ch., 47913 Hansom Rd., Chilliwack, BC V2R 4R9  
9-11—*Sparwood, British Columbia, Canada*. Sparwood-Elk Valley Campout. Write: Ch., Box 436, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0  
9-11—*Jefferson City, Missouri*. State Conv. Write: Ch., 1706 Elm St., St. Charles, MO 63301  
9-11—*Eugene, Oregon*. Summerfest '99. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97440  
9-11—*Squamish, Washington*. Northwest Indian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1121, Auburn, WA 98071-1121  
10-11—*Brookings, Oregon*. 22nd Annual South Coast Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 6612, Brookings, OR 97415  
16-18—*Edson, Alberta, Canada*. District 5 Roundup. Write: Ch., 258 Skogg Ave., Hinton, AB T7V 1A6  
16-18—*Showlow, Arizona*. Lewis Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3284, Showlow, AZ 85902  
16-18—*Campo, Colorado*. Campo Campout. Write: Ch., Box 157, Campo, CO 81029  
16-18—*Alexandria, Louisiana*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5923, Alexandria, LA 71307  
16-18—*Carrabassett Valley, Maine*. 22nd Annual Maine Area Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 10296, Portland, ME 04104  
16-18—*Cherry Hill, New Jersey*. Southern N.J. Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 383, Mantua, NJ 08051  
16-18—*Niagara Falls, New York*. 32nd Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 341, Lockport, NY 14095  
22-25—*Silver Creek, Colorado*. Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 19348, Boulder, CO 80308  
23-25—*Whitecourt, Alberta, Canada*. 12th Whitecourt Campout. Write: Ch., Box 1262, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1P2  
23-25—*Windsor, Ontario, Canada*. 24th Essex County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1502, Station A, Windsor, ON N9A 6R5  
23-25—*Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Hudson Bay Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1597, Hudson Bay, SK S0E 0Y0  
23-25—*Douglas Daly Park, Northern Territories, Australia*. Caring & Sharing Outback Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia

23-25—*Dothan, Alabama*. ALCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 51, Cottonwood, AL 36320  
23-25—*Willow, Alaska*. Second Annual Denali Conf. Write: Ch., Box 875617, Wasilla, AK 99687-5617  
23-25—*Alamosa, Colorado*. Summer Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 1316, Alamosa, CO 81101-1316  
23-25—*Augusta, Georgia*. GCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 212606, Augusta, GA 30917-2600  
23-25—*Shelby, Montana*. Marias River Campout. Write: Ch., Box 158, Shelby, MT 59474  
23-25—*Uniondale, New York*. First Annual Long Island Bash. Write: Ch., 73 Ireland Place, Ste #153, Amityville, NY 11701  
23-25—*Allentown, Pennsylvania*. PENNSCY-PAA 11. Write: Ch., Box 1881, Allentown, PA 18105  
23-25—*College Station, Texas*. Aggieland Conv. Write: Ch., 2907 Jennifer, College Station, TX 77845  
23-25—*Huntsville, Texas*. Spirit of Recovery. Write: Ch., 320 Market #5, Galveston, TX 77550  
23-25—*Eau Claire, Wisconsin*. Second Chippewa Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1033, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1033  
27-Aug 3—*Oshkosh, Wisconsin*. 12th Annual Meeting. Write: Ch., 1819 Kasper Dr., Appleton, WI 54914  
30-Aug 1—*Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada*. District 6 24th Mini-Roundup. Write: Ch., 11A Aberdeen St., Truro, NS B2N 4V1  
30-Aug 1—*St. Helens, Oregon*. Eighth Camp Wilkerson Campout. Write: Ch., Box 443, Clatskanie, OR 97016  
30-Aug 1—*Somerset, Pennsylvania*. Sixth Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 701, Albrightsville, PA 18210-0710  
30-Aug 2—*Darwin, Australia*. Darwin Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia

## August

6-8—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada*. Squamish Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 2015, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0  
6-8—*Waterloo, Ontario, Canada*. 30th Annual Cental West Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23022, Westgate Postal Outlet, Cambridge, ON N1S 4Z6  
6-8—*Lansing, Michigan*. 47th State Conf. and 21st East Central Regional Conf. Write: Ch., Box 13, Holt, MI 48842  
7-8—*Katherine, Australia*. Katherine Round. Up. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia

13-15—*Alice Springs, Australia*. Centralian Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia  
13-15—*Scottsdale, Arizona*. Salt River Intergroup Summer Roundup. Write: Ch., 4602 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014  
13-15—*Erlanger, Kentucky*. Northern Kentucky Rule 62 Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 62, Covington, KY 41012  
13-15—*Beckley, West Virginia*. Summer Fun Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 500, Beckley, WV 25802-0500  
21-22—*San Juan, Puerto Rico*. Special Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163  
27-29—*Writing-on-Stone Park, Alberta, Canada*. Corn Roast. Write: Ch., Box 158, Shelby, MT 59474  
27-29—*Joplin, Missouri*. 12th Annual Summer Hummer Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2075, Joplin, MO 64803  
28-29—*Lewistown, Montana*. Area 40 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 316 Missouri St., Miles City, MT 59301

## September

3-5—*Sparks, Nevada*. 22nd Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5874, Sparks, NV 89432  
3-6—*Tampa, Florida*. Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685  
10-12—*Sheridan, Wyoming*. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163  
17-18—*Kalispell, Montana*. Fall Refresher. Write: Ch., 5875 Hwy 2W, Kila, MT 59920  
17-19—*Taos, New Mexico*. Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 2465, Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557  
24-26—*Naples, Florida*. Twelve Step Weekend. Write: Ch., 149 Happiness Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852  
24-26—*Ann Arbor, Michigan*. East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163  
30-Oct. 3—*Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*. 28th "Fellowship by the Sea." Write: Ch., Box 818, Lowell, NC 28098-0818